

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)
H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)
EUR/P - MR. JERABEK
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

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R 112256Z JUN 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY SANAA
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USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
INFO CINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 136760

.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL
CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING JUNE 10, 1975:

Q. DID THE SECRETARY HAVE BREAKFAST WITH THE PRIME MINISTER
THIS MORNING?

A. YES, HE DID, THIS MORNING -- AT BLAIR HOUSE. THE BREAK-
FAST MEETING WAS FROM ABOUT 8:00 UNTIL 9:15. PRESENT ON
THE ISRAELI SIDE WERE PRIME MINISTER RABIN AND AMBASSADOR
DINITZ, AND ON THE U.S. SIDE SECRETARY KISSINGER AND MR.
PETER RODMAN, AN NSC STAFF AID TO THE SECRETARY.

Q. THERE SEEMS TO BE AN IMPRESSION THAT THERE IS VERY
LITTLE CEREMONY BEING ATTENDED RABIN'S VISIT; THAT AN
EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO POINT OUT THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE
SITUATION -- WHICH IT IS, I SUPPOSE -- BUT TO AVOID ANY
TRAPPINGS, ANY GLAMOR. WHAT DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAY
ABOUT SUCH A FEELING?

A. IT'S THE FIRST I HAVE HEARD ABOUT THIS FEELING. I AM
RATHER SURPRISED BY IT.

Q. YOK THINK IT MATCHES IN CEREMONY THE FORD-SADAT SUM-
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MIT IN SALZBURG, FOR INSTANCE?

Q. INCLUDING THE OPENING?

Q. INCLUDING THE EFFUSIVE -- WELL, I GUESS THAT'S AN
ADJECTIVE -- INCLUDING STATEMENTS OF PRAISE OF WORLD
LEADERSHIP AND GREAT ACUMEN ON BOTH SIDES.

A. I THINK THE WELCOME IS WARM. I DON'T REALLY THINK
THERE IS ANYTHING TO WHAT YOU ARE SAYING.

Q. YOU THINK THE WELCOME IS WARM.

A. YES. I'M AT A LITTLE AT A LOSS FOR WORDS, FRANKLY, ON READING OUT OF THE MEETINGS, BECAUSE THAT HAS COME FROM THE WHITE HOUSE AND WILL CONTINUE TO COME FROM THE WHITE HOUSE.

Q. WELL, IT IS VERY EARLY, OF COURSE, IN THIS EVENT. BUT I HAVE HEARD THAT, AND I HAVE THAT IMPRESSION MYSELF.

A. THE SECRETARY WENT TO THE AIRPORT. HE HAD A BREAK-FAST MEETING WITH HIM THIS MORNING. PRIME MINISTER RABIN MET WITH THE PRESIDENT THIS MORNING, I BELIEVE ALMOST FOR TWO HOURS. THEY ARE HAVING A WORKING DINNER THIS EVENING. THEY ARE HAVING ANOTHER MEETING TOMORROW. I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANY BASIS TO WHAT YOU ARE SAYING.

Q. LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING ELSE, IF I MAY, WHICH YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO ADDRESS. HERE IS THE SENTENCE -- AND IT DOESN'T HELP TO HAVE IT IN FRONT OF ME, EITHER. THE SECRETARY MET RABIN YESTERDAY AND HE SAID, "WE HAVE MANY PROBLEMS TO DISCUSS INCLUDING THE PROBLEM OF PROGRESS TOWARDS PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS." I WOULD HAVE TROUBLE PARSING THE SENTENCE, BUT I TOOK IT TO MEAN THAT HE REFERRED TO PROBLEMS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS. ARE THERE PROBLEMS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES?

A. WELL, THERE ARE ALWAYS PROBLEMS AND QUESTIONS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH ANY STATE. I WOULD NOT ATTACH ANY UNCLASSIFIED

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PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO THAT. I THINK THAT THAT WOULD BE WHAT YOU WOULD EXPECT TO BE DISCUSSED WHEN A PRIME MINISTER COMES TO WASHINGTON.

Q. THE SECRETARY SAID ON THE HILL YESTERDAY THAT IN ADDITION TO THE MEETING WITH MR. RABIN AND FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM THERE WOULD BE MEETINGS WITH OTHER ARABS. DO YOU KNOW WHO HE WAS REFERRING TO?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANY DETAILS ON THAT.

Q. NO OTHER TALKS PLANNED WITH ANY ARAB LEADERS -- SAUDI ARABIANS, FOR EXAMPLE?

A. NOT THAT I AM AWARE OF, NO. I WILL CHECK ON THAT POINT.

Q. CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING ABOUT THE THINNING OUT? AS WE ALL DISCOVERED YESTERDAY, THE THINNING OUT HAD ESSENTIALLY TAKEN PLACE AT LEAST MONTHS BEFORE IT WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. I TRIED THE WHITE HOUSE TODAY AND ASKED THEM IF WE WERE AWARE OF THAT FACT

WHEN THE SECRETARY PRAISE THE THINNING OUT. THE WHITE HOUSE DIDN'T KNOW. WAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THE ISRAELIS HAD ACTUALLY THINNED OUT MONTHS BEFORE THE ANNOUNCEMENT?

A. I AM NOT PREPARED TO CONFIRM THAT WHAT YOU ARE SAYING IS FACTUALLY CORRECT. I WOULD RECALL THAT WE DID WELCOME THE MOVE BY ISRAEL AND WE CONTINUE TO HAVE WELCOMED THAT MOVE. WE THINK IT IS HELPFUL IN THE EVOLUTION TOWARDS PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. WELL, REALLY TO BE SPECIFIC, AREN'T YOU WELCOMING THE ANNOUNCEMENT RATHER THAN THE MOVE?

A. AGAIN, I AM NOT PREPARED TO SAY THAT WHAT YOU READ AS THE FACTS OF THE CASE ARE THE FACTS OF THE CASE OR ARE NOT THE FACTS OF THE CASE.

Q. ARE YOU UNAWARE OF WHAT THE FACTS ARE?
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A. NO COMMENT.

Q. ISREALI OFFICIALS IN THE CITY HAVE BEEN SAYING FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS NOW THAT ISRAEL IS WILLING TO DROP ITU DEMAND FOR A PUBLIC EGYPTIAN NON-BELLIGERENCY PLEDGE. IS THAT SIGNIFICANT AS FAR AS THE DEPARTMENT IS CONCERNED?

A. I DON'T REALLY THINK IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR ME TO GET INTO VARIOUS POINTS THAT HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED OR ARE BEING DISCUSSED IN THIS WHOLE SITUATION.

Q. WELL, ARE YOU ABLE IN A GENERAL WAY TO SAY WHETHER THERE IS ANY MOVEMENT ON THE QUESTION OF BRINGING THE TWO SIDES CLOSER TOGETHER?

A. WE ARE HOPEFUL. BUT AS THE SECRETARY SAID YESTERDAY, THAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETINGS TO DETERMINE WHAT THE POSITIONS ARE OF THE TWO SIDES AND THEN TO MAKE A JUDGMENT BASED ON THESE MEETINGS.

Q. BOB, IS AMBASSADOR HELMS IN THIS COUNTRY?

A. YES. I UNDERSTAND AMBASSADOR HELMS IS IN THE UNITED STATES. IN FACT, I BELIEVE HE IS IN WASHINGTON. I WANT TO DOUBLE CHECK THIS, BUT IT IS MY IMPRESSION THAT HE HAD BEEN PLANNING TO COME BACK IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST BY THE CHURCH SUBCOMMITTEE ON MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS TO TESTIFY. HE IS TO TESTIFY BEFORE THAT COMMITTEE EITHER TOMORROW OR THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.#

P. WHEN DID HE ARRIVE -- DO YOU KNOW?

A. I DON'T KNOW WHEN HE ARRIVED. IN THE LAST FEW DAYS, I BELIEVE.

Q. THERE'S A REPORT TODAY IN THE BOSTON GLOBE THAT THE PRESIDENT IS CONSIDERING A \$100 MILLION SALE OF MILITARY VEHICLES AND HELICOPTERS TO EGYPT AND IS CONSIDERING ALLOWING EGYPTIAN CADETS TO TRAIN AT U.S. MILITARY ACADEMIES. CAN YOU CONFIRM THIS?
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A. FIRST LET ME SAY I HAVE READ THE ARTICLE IN THE BOSTON NEWSPAPER, SO I AM AWARE OF ITS CONTENTS AND I HAVE CHECKED INTO IT. THE FIRST POINT IS THERE ARE NO MILITARY SALES FROM THIS GOVERNMENT TO EGYPT UNDER CONSIDERATION. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS NOT SELLING MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO EGYPT. HOWEVER, I UNDERSTAND THAT CERTAIN AMERICAN COMPANIES, IN STRAIGHT COMMERCIAL CASH SALES WHICH REQUIRE NO LICENSING BY THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, HAVE CONTRACTED TO SELL SOME TRUCKS AND JEEPS TO EGYPT. BUT I REPEAT, THESE ARE NOT MILITARY TRANSACTIONS BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. NOW, ON THE OTHER PART OF YOUR QUESTION, ABOUT THE TRAINING OF EGYPTIANS IN U.S. SERVICE SCHOOLS, THE EGYPTIANS HAVE INDICATED AN INTEREST IN SENDING A SMALL NUMBER OF MILITARY OFFICERS FOR TRAINING AT U.S. SERVICE SCHOOLS AND THIS MATTER IS BEING DISCUSSED.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY ESTIMATE OF THE SIZE OF THE PURCHASES OF TRUCKS AND JEEPS?

A. NO, I HAVE NO INDICATION. ONE OF THE COMPANIES INVOLVED IS THE AMERICAN MOTOR COMPANY, AMC, AND YOU MIGHT WANT TO ASK THEM.

Q. HOW ABOUT HELICOPTERS? THAT'S ANOTHER PART OF THE STORY.

A. NO HELICOPTERS ARE BEING SOLD TO EGYPT BY AMERICAN COMPANIES.

Q. THOSE SALES DON'T NEED ANY KIND OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT APPROVAL?

A. NO, THEY DO NOT.

Q. WHILE WE ARE ON SALEU -- THIS MAY BE BEYOND YOUR KEN-- BUT THERE IS A REPORT THAT BRITAIN WILL SOON ANNOUNCE A MASSIVE ARMS SALE TO EGYPT. DO WE HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THAT?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT.
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Q. TO RETURN TO THE SUBSTANCE OF THIS, ARE YOU SAYING THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DOES NOT KNOW THE VOLUME OF COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS IN TRUCKS AND JEEPS TO EGYPT?

A. IT MAY APPEAR IN COMMERCE TRANSACTIONS. I WAS NOT ABLE TO DETERMINE THAT FIGURE THIS MORNING. BUT THAT ISN'T SURPRISING. THESE TRADE STATISTICS, IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING AND IMPRESSION DO NOT IMMEDIATELY SHOW UP. THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT THAT THE COMPANY TELL US THE CASH VALUE OF A TRANSACTION THAT THEY MAY HAVE MADE.

Q. IS THERE A REQUIREMENT THAT IT MEET SOME GOVERNMENT APPROVAL?

A. NO, THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT.

Q. ANYBODY COULD SELL --

A. YES. THAT IS ONE OF OUR MORE IMPORTANT EXPORTS -- TRUCKS AND AUTOMOBILAS.

Q. I KNOW, BUT I MEAN WHEN YOU GET INTO THE AREA OF SOMETHING THAT MAY BE CONSIDERED LETHAL MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

A. A TRUCK AND A JEEP IS CLEARLY NOT A LETHAL PIECE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

Q. I SUPPOSE PEOPLE COULD SAY THAT. I'M NOT SURE I AGREE WITH THAT, BY THE WAY. BUT WHERE IS THE LINE DRAWN? AT WHAT POINT WOULD THEY NEED GOVERNMENT APPROVAL?

A. WHEN YOU REQUIRE A LICENSING UNDER MILITARY SALES, THERE IS A LONG LIST OF ITEMS WHICH ARE REGARDED AS MILITARY EQUIPMENT. THEY REQUIRA LICENSING THROUGH OUR OFFICE OF MUNITIONS CONTROL. THESE COMMERCIAL TRUCKS AND COMMERCIAL JEEPS ARE NOT ON THAT LIST AND DO NOT REQUIRE SUCH LICENSE.

Q. HELICOPTERSN WHICH IS THE THIRD THING IN THE GLOBE STORY, THAT WOULD BE ON THE LIST?
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A. RIGHT.

Q. ARE YOU SAYING THERE HAS BEEN NO REQUEST FROM EGYPT FOR SALES CREDITS?

A. AS FAR AS I KNOW, YES. I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY REQUEST BY THE EGYPTIANS.

Q. OR EXPORT-IMPORT BANK?

A. I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY SUCH REQUEST.

Q. THE LEAD POINT OF THE STORY IS, I BELIEVE, THAT THE FORD ADMINISTRATION IS CONSIDERING THIS SALE. IS THERE ANYTHING FOR US TO CONSIDER?

A. NO. THAT'S THE POINT. THE STORY TALKS ABOUT THESE TRUCKS AND JEEPS. AND WHAT I HAVE 33, -?)3 59 \$3534.8,3 8 5#-5, YES, THERE IS THIS COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION WHICH I HAVE JUST DESCRIBED. AS FAR AS ANY MILITARY SALES BY THE UNITED STATES, THERE ARE JUST NONE UNDER CONSIDERATION.

Q. WHEN WAS THIS TRANSACTION MADE?

A. I DON'T KNOW. WITHIN --

Q. IS AMC THE ONLY COMPANY?

A. IT IS THE MAJOR COMPANY. I BELIEVE THERE ARE OTHER COMPANIES THAT ARE CONSIDERING SALES. BUT I DO NOT HAVE THE DETAILS ON SALES BY OTHER COMPANIES.

Q. ON THE TRAINING, DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THE VOLUME OF PERSONNEL INVOLVED AND THE TIMETABLE?

A. NO. ALL I KNOW IS THAT IT IS A SMALL NUMBER OF MILITARY OFFICERS FOR TRAINING AT U.S. SERVICE SCHOOLS. I THINK ANY DETAILS ON THAT SHOULD COME FROM THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT.
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Q. DOES SERVICE SCHOOLS MEAN WEST POINT, ANNAPOLIS?

A. YES, I ASSUME IT COULD MEAN THOSE.

Q. DO YOU GO ALONG WITH THE GLOBE'S THEORY THAT THIS GIVES US A CHANCE TO HAVE A MODERATING INFLUENCE ON EGYPT? BY TRAINING THEIR CADETS THE PURPOSE IS WHAT? TO HAVE A MODERATING INFLUENCE ON EGYPT?

A. THE ATTENDANCE BY MILITARY OFFICERS FROM COUNTRIES WITH WHOM WE HAVE FRIENDLY RELATIONS IS SOMETHING THAT HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR A LONG TIME. IT IS OBVIOUSLY A POSITIVE ELEMENT IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS.

. THIS HASN'T BEEN DECIDED YET, THOUGH, IS THAT RIGHT?

A. THAT'S MY UNDERSTANDING.

Q. JUST TO MAKE SURE HERE, I WANT TO GO BACK TO THE BEGINNING AGAIN. ARE YOU SAYING THAT COMMERCIAL COMPANIES DID NOT COME TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND ASK THEM IF IT HAD ANY OBJECTION TO SALES OF NON-LETHAL EQUIPMENT TO EGYPT?

A. NO. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I HAVE BEEN ASKED THAT QUESTION SPECIFICALLY. I DO UNDERSTAND THAT AMC DID INFORMALLY COME TO THE GOVERNMENT AND ASK IF THERE WAS ANY CONFLICT WITH ANY U.S. POLICY IF THEY SOLD THESE TRUCKS AND JEEPS. OUR ANSWER WAS WE SAW NO PROBLEM WITH THESE SALES.

Q. WERE THEY REQUIRED TO DO THAT?

A. NO.

SUBSEQUENT TO THE BRIEFING IT WAS LEARNED THAT AMBASSADOR HELMS IS APPEARING BEFORE THE CHURCH SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES ON FRIDAY, JUNE 13. KISSINGER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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